

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 NSC-05 /072 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:NG
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA:GLISTER (INFO)
HA:MSCHNEIDER (INFO)
D:SOXMAN (INFO)

-----038749 160249Z /62

R 150330Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SOCI, UY

SUBJECT: POLICE INVESTIGATION OF ATTACKS ON JEWISH
PROPERTY

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1180

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR REFTEL WAS PASSED TO RABBI MORTON ROSENTHAL, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, BY TELEPHONE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF INCIDENT JUST AS REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY. BASED ON BOTH SOURCES, RABBI ROSENTHAL HAS DECIDED THAT THE GOU IS TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION AND HE DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE THE EVENT. HE SO INFORMED AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS, CITING THE GOU SENSITIVITY AND THE DESIRE NOT TO IMPAIR CURRENT EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

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2. ROSENTHAL MET WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS ON APRIL 3. THEY DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT NO RESPONSE HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO THE NOVEMBER LETTER TO ADMIRAL SANGURO REGARDING THE REQUESTED RELEASE OF SIX JEWISH PRISONERS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. PEREZ CALDAS HAD SEPARATELY REQUESTED A RESPONSE, BUT WITHOUT RESULTS. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, ROSENTHAL PROVIDED A NEW LETTER RESTATING THE EARLIER

REQUEST, WHICH PEREZ CALDAS PRESENTED PERSONALLY TO GENERAL

BENDAHAN LAST WEEK. ROSENTHAL ADDED ONE PRISONER'S NAME TO THE ORIGINAL LIST OF SIX, ISMAEL WEINBERGER WEISZ, A JOURNALIST WITH RELATIVES IN ISRAEL, REQUESTING THAT HE BE GRANTED EXILE.

3. AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS SUGGESTED TO RABBI ROSENTHAL DURING THE APRIL 3 MEETING THAT ROSENTHAL CONSIDER A RETURN VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO. PEREZ CALDAS OBSERVED THAT THE RABBI HAD NOT BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED DURING HIS FIRST VISIT, BUT WOULD FIND A BETTER RECEPTION IF HE RETURNED.

4. ROSENTHAL IS WILLING TO CONSIDER A NEW VISIT. HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR RESULTS, AND NOT MERELY AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE STROKED. HIS DECISION TO GO WILL BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE EMBASSY'S OPINION OF THE UTILITY OF SUCH A TRIP. HE WOULD ALSO NEED A FAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE URUGUAYAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO THE PROPOSAL.

5. ROSENTHAL WOULD LIKE GUIDANCE ON WHETHER HE SHOULD ASK TO VISIT JEWISH PRISONERS. HE WANTED AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO TO BE INFORMED OF WHAT HAPPENED WHEN A FIRST EFFORT WAS MADE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE SUGGESTION, RESULTING FROM HIS FIRST VISIT, THAT LOCAL RABBIS BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT JEWISH PRISONERS. A RABBI BERGMAN ATTEMPTED SUCH A VISIT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IN THE COURSE OF DOING SO COMMITTED WHAT WAS REPORTED TO ROSENTHAL AS A "FAUX PAS". AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE, NO FAMILIES HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN RABBINICAL VISITS TO THE PRISONS. THE SPECIFICS OF THE BERGMAN CASE ARE NOT KNOWN HERE.

6. ROSENTHAL SAID THAT HE WILL BE VISITING MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA DURING MAY, BUT AFTER THAT HIS SCHEDULE IS FAIRLY FLEXIBLE. HE SURMISES THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO SPACE OUT HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS, AND WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED HIS RETURN SOME MONTHS IN THE FUTURE RATHER THAN IMMEDIATELY. CHRISTOPHER

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